

The Life and Adventures of Capt. John

Avery, the Famous English Pirate, (rais'd from a Cabbin-Boy, to a King) now in Possession of Madagascar.

Being a succinct Account of his Birth, Parentage, Education, Misfortunes, and Successes, viz. His serving the Government on Board the *Resolution* and *Non-such* Men of War. The Reasons why he quitted that Service, for that of the Merchants. His putting to Sea in a Merchant Ship, where he drew in the Crew to turn Pirates with him. His sailing to *Jamaica*, where he dispos'd of the Ship's Cargo. His taking a large Ship, worth above a Million Sterling, belonging to the Great *Mogul*, with his Grand-Daughter on Board, (who was going to be marry'd to the King of *Persia*) attended by a great Retinue of Ladies. His Marriage with the said Princess, and his Men with her Retinue. The Methods he took to establish himself. His Wealth, Strength, and Acquisitions by Sea and Land. His Character. The several Overtures he has made to return to his Obedience. A Description of the Country; with its Customs, Manners, &c. Written by a Person who made his Escape from thence, and faithfully extracted from his Journal.

The P R E F A C E.

AS Prefaces are necessary, where the Credit of any Memoirs is liable to be call'd in Question, so it may not be improper to give the Reader one at this Juncture, who, from the many Impositions of this Nature, will be apt to suspend his Belief concerning Things so remotely transacted, and Persons so obscure and imperceptible in their Practice. Who is this pretended Author, that made his Escape from Madagascar? says one. How comes he to be let into the Captain's inmost Secrets? cries another. And every one gives himself a Liberty concerning a Writer that is justly said, by the late Dr. Sherlock, to lie down, while every Reader takes a Priviledge in censuring what he buys, which is really his own by that Purchase, and hits him a Kick in the Britch, to make him exercise his Faculty of Feeling. To gratify such curious Enquiries as these, and prepossess the Publick against all Manner of scrupulous Objections, it is to know, that the Author of this small Treatise, is one Adrian Van Broeck, a Dutch Gentleman, who, after a very liberal Education at Leyden, apply'd himself, as Men of the best Fashion in Holland do, to the Business of Trade. This Application, which he made to the Satisfaction of all that he dealt with, made him known to the Governors of the Dutch East-India Company, who, in order to encourage so much Desert, made him Super-cargo to one of their outward-bound Ships, very richly laden, call'd the *Zeeland*, with Letters recommendatory for a profitable Employ, when he should arrive at Batavia. But Fortune, that is not always in Friendship with those who deserve it, suffer'd this Ship to spring a Leak, and foundered at Sea, near the Island of St. Helena, though the Crew made their Escape in their Pinnaces and long Boat. Among the rest, Adrian Van Broeck, who had lost very considerably of his own by this Disaster, came ashore, and after Application to the Governor, got another Ship upon the Company's Account, and so made the best of his Way for Batavia. Yet, notwithstanding the Danger he had just before escap'd from, and the Treasure this Type of Inconstancy had made the devouring Sea rob him of, he was to fall under another Disappointment more severe than the former; which was, to be intercepted in his Voyage by Pirates, that were some of Capt. Avery's Band, and after plundering him of his ready Money, which consisted of some thousand Dollars, brought him, and

his Ship and Company, into Madagascar; where being had before the Captain to be examin'd about his Circumstances, and the Affairs of Europe, the Captain contracted such an Esteem for him, as not only to offer him a free Residence, but such a Share in his new erected Government, as he should think fit to accept of. Van Broeck was by no Means to incur his Displeasure and ill Will by a Denial, wherefore he laid hold of his Offer, and was admitted into his most secret Thoughts; which gave him Occasion to know such a Part of these Memoirs, as his Birth, Education, Marriage, &c. which he was not an Eye-Witness to. But as generous and liberal Spirits cannot long down with dishonourable Practices, so this Gentleman could no longer brook an Abode amongst this Nest of Thieves, than Necessity requir'd it; and laying Hold of the English East-India Man, whom the Sequel of these Memoirs will tell us to be dismiss'd in Safety, with a Letter to the Governor of Fort St. George, he got on Board with his Effects, which consisted of Money which Avery had plentifully stor'd him with, by Stealth in the Night-Season; and so after staying some Time in the English Settlements, got safely to Batavia, where he now lives possess'd of a very good Post, which he was before recommended to. What remains after this, is, to answer some Objections which may be made to the Truth of it, from his mentioning nothing of this in the Body of the Memoirs; and this may be done by referring the Reader to the best Writers of this Kind, such as Caesar in his Commentaries, &c. who industriously pass over what relates to themselves, unless an absolute Necessity requires it. Besides, it would very much take off from the Opinion of our Author's Judgment and Qualifications, to introduce any Thing relating to himself, in a History that treats of nothing but unjustifiable Principles and Practices. To keep the Reader no longer from entering into ^{his} House, by detaining him in the Porch, he has nothing to do, but to go in and make himself welcome; where, though he will find no Dainties or Luxuriance of Stile to feed upon, he'll have that the Gods themselves were pleas'd with at a homely Entertainment at Baucis's and Philemon's, if the Poet saith Truth, by his Super ann. vultus accessere boni.

The Life and Adventures of Capt. John Avery, &c.

AS Truth is more necessary towards enlightening Matters purely historical, than the Embellishments of Stile; and a naked Simplicity more suits this Truth, than those ornamental Advantages which are wanting to set off Falsehoods and romantick Relations, the Writer of these Memoirs, who is perfectly well known to the Person that gives Being to 'em, has thought fit to entertain his Reader with none of those Flourishes our modern Annalists and Historians abound with; but without assuming to himself any of their Airs, lay Things before him without any other Dress, than the Gentleman he is now going to treat, had when his Mother first brought him into the World.

Capt. John Avery was born at Plymouth, a noted Sea-Port Town in Devonshire, in the Year 1653, and rather descended from Parents noted for their Industry, than Birth. His Father had spent several Years of his Life in the Service of the Crown, with his Fellow Townsman Admiral Blake; but meeting with little Encouragement, and finding a total Defection from the Royal Cause in the Beginning of the late civil War, chose rather to abandon his dear Friend and Country-man, than his sovereign Lord, he betook himself to the Merchants, under whom, by his prudent and careful Demeanor, he got a competent Estate, and the Reputation of a very able Sea-man. His Mother, who had the Care of the young Infant during her Husband's Absence in foreign Parts, was not behind hand with him in her Industry at Home, but took such Care of the Son, as might one Day render him possess'd of the Abilities of his Fa-

ther ; but unfortunately dying while her Husband was at Sea, and her Son in the 6th Year of his Age, left him to the Direction of a Sister of her's, one Mrs. *Norris* who was an Inhabitant of the same Town with her. This Aunt of his, who was a Widow, and had no Children of her own, surpass'd the Mother (if it was possible) in Tokens of Affection ; and finding him of a very forward Genius, took such Care of his Education, as was proper for a Child of whom she had conceiv'd such promising Hopes ; and having put him to School, had the Satisfaction not only of seeing him out-strip those of his own Years, but those that had been born some Years before him. But here, as if Fate pointed out the Grandeur and Wealth which should in Process of Time (unfortunately) arrive at, he gave Indications of such a daring and commanding Genius, as made some of his little School-Fellows very uneasy, and give in many Complaints against him, for his tyrannical Treatment. Tho' their Complaints were to no Purpose, Nature had eradicated in him a Thirst of Empire, and Obedience to his Superiors, was as little consonant to his Character, as a moderate and obliging Behaviour to his Inferiors. The Master heard and saw all this, and chastis'd him to no Purpose. At last, the Father return'd Home, and being content with the Fortunes he had happily acquir'd, wisely resolv'd to tempt the Inconstancy of the Seas no more, but to cast Anchor in a Port that would render him secure from all the Danger the Winds and Waves had before threaten'd him with. To put these Resolutions in Practice, he purchas'd upwards of 160 l. a Year, near *Plymouth*, at a Place call'd *Cat-Down*, a Sort of an Eminence over-looking an Arm of the Sea ; which, by its various *Meanders* and Windings, runs several Miles into the Country, and takes its Name from a Mountain or Down, which at once swells above, and defends it from the Insults of tempestuous Weather.

Here the brave old Man took up his Residence ; and after having liv'd to see the Royal Family restor'd in the Person of that august Monarch, King *Charles* the 2d, and his Country deliver'd from the Usurpations it had tyrannically labour'd under for many Years, sung his *nunc dimittis*, and gave up his Soul, *Mar.* 14. 1663. into the Hands of him that gave it him. Now was our young Pirate just entering into the eleventh Year of his Age, and once more under the immediate Care of his Aunt, who was appointed for his Guardian, together with Mr. *Bartholomew Knowles*, a Sea-faring Person, who was equally rich with old *Avery*, but not equally honest, as the Sequel will give us to understand. His Aunt liv'd with him under the Capacity of a Trustee for about four Years, when being of a very great Age, she gave Way to the Declensions of Nature, and paying Obedience to the Laws of Mortality, left this World, and him possess'd of 500 l. more than he had before her Decease.

Mr. *Knowles* being now sole Executor, and those Impediments remov'd by his Aunt's Death, which hinder'd him from putting those evil Designs in Practice, which he had long projected ; what does he to compass 'em, but by giving Way to those Inclinations he saw most predominant in his *Ward*, encourage him in his Desires to go aboard a Fleet of Men of War, that was then going to suppress the Nest of Pirates at *Algiers*. *Avery*, for his Part, took this as an Earnest of his Indulgence ; and being vested with the Character of a Reformed by the King's Letter, he set Sail from *Plymouth* with the Squadron that was order'd out for the Purposes before-mention'd ; where we shall leave him, to see how his Guardian bestow'd his Time in his Absence, who husbanded it as well as Villany could instruct him, by the following Method : There was a neighbouring Attorney, with whom he had contracted an intimate Acquaintance, (I will not say Friendship, for that's an Appellation no Ways familiar to Men of evil Dispositions and Characters) and who had as true a Taste as himself of Things for-

hidden by the Laws of God and Man. This Backslider, in *noverim* *Universis*, knew as well how to forge Deeds, as his Brother in Iniquity how to persuade him to it, and it took not up much Labour, but Conveyances were made, and other Instruments drawn, which entitl'd *Knowles* to the Possession of the Estate at *Cat-Down*, exclusive of the lawful Proprietor. A hundred Pounds for his Pains, remov'd all Difficulties, and neither the Violation of Things sacred and civil, after such a delicate *Morsel*, put the least Rub in his Way. As for the 500 *l.* he had no Manner of Consultation about getting of them into his Hands, they were already in 'em, and a good round Bill of Charges would soon make him Master of that Sum, without any Fear of the Equity of his *Ward's* Pretences. In the mean while, young *Avery* shews an uncommon Readiness in the Practice of Maritime Affairs, and not only gets into the Esteem of the Officers of his Majesty's Ship the *Resolution*, which he serv'd aboard, but of the Commadore Rear Admiral *Lawson*, and having exerted an extraordinary Vigor and Sprightliness while *Algiers* was reduc'd to Reason by the Terror of the *English* Navy, begg'd of his Captain to let him serve in the same Quality as he did in his Ship, aboard another Vessel that was order'd with three more to be detach'd for the *West Indies*, where the *Spaniards* began to be troublesome to our foreign Plantations; which was immediately granted him, as a Token of good Will that Commander bore him, and an Encouragement to his future Progress in the Art of Navigation. But I must not carry him from aboard the *Resolution*, to the *Nonfuch*, (for that was the Ship he was to go to the *Indies* in) before I give the remarkable Occurrence which claims a Share in this History, which is this: It being a Custom for the Reformades, especially those which are most in the good Graces of the commanding Officer, to dine with the Captain, it was his good Fortune to be one of 'em, while they were taking in Provision at the Port of *Cadiz*, and the second Lieutenant of the Ship being then invited also to Table, they fell to Gaming, as is usual, for want of other Diversion, after Dinner, and our young Tarpawlin had the Fortune to strip this Officer of the ready Money he was Master of, and would not play with him after, as he was desir'd, upon Honour. This enrag'd the Lieutenant to the last Degree, who vow'd Revenge, not being able to accomplish it in the Captain's Presence, where no Breach of the Peace was to be committed, and the profoundest Respect was due. He therefore took Occasion next Morning to shew his Resentment by a Bastinado, for a pretended Neglect in the Reformade's not doing his Duty; who not being able to brook a Blow that was given him so undeservedly, having watch'd the Lieutenant ashore, got Leave of his Officer likewise to have the Boat mann'd out and go ashore, where he found his Antagonist; and after calling him to Account for Satisfaction, had it in wounding him in several Places, for which he was confin'd at his returning on Board again, for some Time, but afterwards dismiss'd with Applause, for his gallant Behaviour; when his Captain came to be inform'd of the true State of the Case.

We have no Room to question, but this fortunate and daring Adventure flush'd him with Expectations of Success in his future Encounters, and gave Additions to a Courage that stood in need of no Access to it. But to be as concise as we can in our Narration, without Digressions by Way of Remarks, let it suffice, that we bring him in the Commadore's Ship before *Port Royal* in *Jamaica*, where, being of an active Genius, while the Vessels of War were careening, he grew impatient of some other Exploit, and put himself aboard a *Buccanee*, who was going in Quest of Plunder, and was so fortunate as to return to *Jamaica* with some Ingots of Gold and Silver to his Share; but as he was of an expensive Temper, it did not long stay with him, but went among the Inhabitants

tants, to make appear, that he was not only a perfect Sailor in the Knowledge of Things relating to the Sea, but also very readily vers'd in the Practices of those that use it, upon the Account he was then embark'd in.

Here he stay'd cruising and securing the Commerce in those Seas, for the Space of two Years, when the Commadore being recall'd Home, he was oblig'd to set Sail for his Country ; at which he was no sooner arriv'd, but he found his Guardian dead, and himself dispossest'd not only of his Estate, but Aunt's Legacy, by a pretended Deed of Conveyance, and Bill of Charges. Whom to have Recourse to in these Extremities, he knew not. At last, having receiv'd the Pay that was due to him from the Ship, he commenc'd a Suit against Knowles his Executors, but all to no Purpose ; for what by the Treachery of his own Lawyers, and what by the Pre-possession of the Judges in his Adversary's Favour, he found himself under the Necessity of going to Sea again, by losing his Favour. And here an Opportunity offer'd for his being employ'd, and revenge himself upon his Country's Enemies, for the Perfidies of his pretended Friends. King Charles the II^d had declar'd War against the Dutch for several Inroachments on his Royal Prerogative, and a Fleet was going to Sea to do his Majesty Justice for those Injuries. Among the Rest that made Application for Preferment on this Occasion, Avery was one that attended the Board of Admiralty ; but his Fortunes being lost, his former Favours were vanish'd also, and though he had serv'd so long under a more genteel Character, he found himself oblig'd to submit to a Fore-mast-man's Place aboard the *Edgar*, where he continu'd during that whole War in no other Capacity, than having the Satisfaction of being serviceable to his King and Country.

When both Parties were weary of fighting, they began then more seriously to enter into the Causes of their Enmity ; which not being thought sufficient to justify it on either Side, occasion'd a Treaty of Peace between two Nations, that had been beaten enough to make 'em take Care how they fell together by the Ears for the future. This returns our Champion back again of Course to the Place of his Nativity, where having some Interest, tho' he had none with the Council to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, then Lord High Admiral, he prevail'd with some Merchants of *Totnes* and *Plymouth*, upon a Ship's being bound for the *West Indies*, to be her Commander, and was so fortunate in her, as to perform several Voyages for his Owners, with all imaginable Success. The Places he traded to for the Merchants, were chiefly the Leeward Islands ; but his Genius being active and enterprizing, he made bold to sail farther, and went to the Bay of *Campeachy*, where he cut down a considerable Quantity of Log-wood, traffick'd with the *Spaniards*, and return'd Home with a very rich Cargo. The Merchants look'd upon him as a lucky and bold Commander, his Courage had been try'd upon several Occasions, and his Conduct been render'd irreproachable, thro' the many happy Results of it, as all his Behaviour was with as much Gallantry as could be expected from the most resolute Sailor on the Ocean. Nor did he, by several other Acts of Prudence and Justice, miss of their Esteem, who trusted and employ'd him ; for indeed, to speak impartially of this Captain, he had been worthy of a very great Character, if he had made Use of those excellent Qualities, which he was in an eminent Manner Master of, for the Benefit of his Country, as he afterwards manag'd them for its Disadvantage.

'Tis with a great deal of Address and Difficulty, that some very able Politicians make themselves belov'd and esteem'd by those they have a Design upon ; but Capt. Avery, without the least Uneasiness, had the Art of gaining the Affections of the Mariners, and shewing his Authority, without weakening their Inclinations for his having the Exercise of it ; nay, our better Sort of Tarpaw-

lins, that lay'd Claim to more distinguishing Apprehensions, view'd their Images, and doated upon themselves in the Survey of this. He was, as to his Proportion, middle-fiz'd, inclinable to be fat, and of a gay jolly Complexion. His Manner of living, was imprinted in his Face, and none that saw him, but might have easily told his Profession, without making Application to *John Partridge*, *Isaac Bickerstaff*, or any other Astrologer in *Christendom*, for a Scheme to know it by. His Temper was of a Piece with his Person, daring and good-humour'd, if not provok'd, but insolent, uneasy, and unforgiving to the last Degree, if at any Time impos'd upon. His Knowledge in Affairs relating to his Calling, was ground'd upon a strong natural Judgment, and a sufficient Experience, that was highly advanc'd by an incessant Application to the Mathematics; and notwithstanding the Remissness of his Education and Converse in his Minority, he had many Principles of Morality, which, since his Defection from an equitable Procedure, several of the Subjects belonging to the Crown of *Great Britain*, have sufficiently experienc'd.

These Vertues, both natural and acquir'd, gain'd him a Reputation with the most intelligent Persons, that either apply'd themselves to Navigation, or had Dealings with those that did; and the most accurate in their Projections, had an Eye upon him, as one that might advance as far upon the Surface of the Ocean, and make as signal Discoveries, as his Predecessors, the Admirals *Drake* and *Hawkins*, who had both, like him, been Inhabitants of *Plymouth*, and were rais'd from no higher Beginnings, than our modern Adventurer. But Fate had decreed it otherwise, and he was just upon the Point of seeing himself a Great Man by honest Practices, when an unlucky Accident shipwreck'd his good Fortune, and occasion'd his being enroll'd in the List of Robbers himself, who had not long since been plunder'd of his Patrimony, by base and indirect Measures.

It happen'd, that among other Passions he was subject to, that of Love was not the least; and he had pitch'd his Eyes upon a Farmer's Daughter, as one that would make him happy in matrimonial Enjoyments after his Return from Sea, from which those Pleasures avert their Face; and as his Circumstances were as agreeable to the Parents, as his Appearance to the Daughter, the Portion was agreed upon, and they were both marry'd, (as every one thought) to their mutual and lasting Contentment. Tho' it prov'd, that the Farmer was none of the honestest, as his Daughter happen'd afterwards to fall under the Character of none of the chaste; for the first took Advantage of his Son-in-Law's taking his Word for his Daughter's Portion, and refus'd to pay him one Farthing, the last was hopefully brought to Bed of a champion Boy, six Months after the Bridal Night, as much like a certain Inn-keeper in the Town, as if it had been spit out of his Mouth. 'Tis easy to imagine such Disappointments as these, were enough to set a Temper on Fire, that was too sanguine to pocket such Abuses; wherefore, having withdrawn his Effects from *Plymouth*, and made ready Money of all he was Master of, he made the best of his Way for *London*, and gave a plain Indication, at his Arrival there, that as Hatred and Aversion make us bloody-minded, so they teach us to dissemble, while he disguis'd his Thoughts, in order to put them more mischievously in Execution.

Here he had no sooner made the proper Reflexions on his Misfortunes, and heartily curs'd the Authors of his Ruin, according to ancient Custom, but he put on very honest undesigning Looks, and apply'd himself once more to some Merchants, whose Service he had been formerly engag'd in, and for whom he had made many a successful Voyage. He pretended a more than ordinary Desire of repairing his Losses by Trade; and to that Purpose assur'd them, that he would not only venture all the ready Monies he was already possess'd of, but
whatever

whatever Goods his Stock of Reputation could purchase, after the unhappy Accidents that had befallen him: Which Proposals were readily clos'd with, and the Gentlemen apply'd to, not only fitted him out a Ship of 400 Tuns, ready mann'd, victuall'd, and freighted, but gave him Credit for several hundred Pounds, and made him Supercargo, as well as Commander. This was as he could have wish'd, and the War between England and France raging at that Time, it afforded Capt. Avery a fair Opportunity of providing his Ship with a far greater Number of Guns and Men, than at any other Time would have appear'd necessary. Neither did the Pains he took to procure able Sailors upon this Occasion, and such as were remarkable for their Courage, give any Manner of Suspicion to the Owners, but out he sail'd with as bold a Crew, as ever trusted themselves to Wind and Weather.

His first Exploit, after he had got Sea-Room, was, to sound the Inclination of his Men, for nothing was to be done without their Concurrence. *He lay'd before 'em the frequent Hazards they were oblig'd to run, for no valuable Consideration: That if they would permit him to lead them on, he promis'd one Day's resolute Fight should make the Residue of their Lives an uninterrupted Scene of Pleasure: That it was mere Madness to depend on the Merchants, who suffer'd the bravest Fellows to grow old, lame, and miserable in their Service, without having any Regard to their Labours: That 'twas an equal Frenzy, to hazard all for the Government, where, as he had personally experien'd, Promotion seldom attended true Merit; where the Insolence of Commanders was insufferable, and where the Tarpaulins of Honour had nothing to expect for the Reward of their Wounds and Bravery, but a poor Apartment in an unprovided Hospital, when Age and ill Usage had render'd 'em unfit for farther Service.* With these, and such like Arguments, drawn from the unfortunate Management of the Navy in those Days, and by perswading his Men, that they should meet with Mines richer than those of Potz, he so far prevail'd with 'em, that, one and all, they determin'd to adhere to his Resolutions. Thus, being well satisfy'd with their Consent to his Design, he forthwith made the best of his Way to the Island of Jamaica, where he was not a little acquainted, (as the Reader has been before given to understand) and there dispos'd of that Part of the Ship's Cargo which could be of no Use to him in his intended Voyage. But an unlucky Accident had like to have marr'd his Project, and blasted a Design which he had conceiv'd so hopeful an Opinion of; for the Person whom he had chosen for his Clerk and Steward, being appriz'd of the Matter, and puff'd up with the Expectation of a great Reward for the Discovery, had made an Agreement with one of the Ship's Crew, who was the Gunner's Mate, to go ashore the next Day, and make it known to Sir William Beeston, who was then Governor; but the Fellow whom this Resolution was concerted with, had some Remorse amidst his Want of it, and communicated the whole Secret to the Captain, who laid an Embargo on his trusty Servant, 'till they were out at Sea, and then decently truss'd him up, for being a Traytor to his trayterous and piratical Purposes.

Being victuall'd afresh, he incited some Persons, who had been Buccaneers, to join him, and with all imaginable Expedition, set Sail to cruize in the Indian Sea; where, after an Oath taken of every individual Mariner, for Secrecy in the Affair they were going in Pursuit of, he tack'd about backwards and forwards for a considerable Time, before any Prize of Value came in Sight. At last, *Fortune*, that intended to make him miserable, by being reputed happy, threw in his Way a Vessel of a great Burthen, for she carry'd near a thousand Men, with Guns proportionable, was freighted with the richest Merchandizes of all the East, and had got a Prize of greater Value about her, I mean a Grand-Daughter of *Aure-*

zele, who was then Great Mogul, and commanded an Empire almost as extensive as any known Quarter of the World. The Force of the Ship, and the vast Numbers of Soldiers that appear'd on its Deck, at first gave no small Uneasiness to Capt. Avery, who was loath to miscarry in his first Attempt, and seem'd doubtful of Success at the same Time as he was set on Tip-toe to prosecute it; but having recollected himself, he consider'd his own Strength, the Bravery of his Sea-men, and their wonderful Skill in naval Rencounters, while the Numbers of the others would rather be a Hindrance to 'em, than an Advantage, and the Want of being unexercis'd in military Affairs, render'd them as weak as they were numerous; therefore he gave Orders for the Signal of Battel, and immediately commanded to bear down upon the *Indians*, and exerted such a Courage, as if he had prophetically known, that the Reward of his Victory should be the most charming of the fair Sex, and the most precious of all inestimable Things that the *East* could present him with.

The *English* gave but a Broadside or two, when the *Indians* struck their Colours, and resign'd themselves to the Mercy of their Enemies. The Cargo of this Ship was so very rich, that it even satiated the Appetites of the most covetous of the Mariners; for above the Value of a Million of Money in Silver and rich Stuffs, was found therein, and a very agreeable Lady into the Bargain. The Captain no sooner beheld the Lady in Tears, but melted into Compassion, forgot those inhuman Resolutions he had taken at his Departure from *England*, and being of an amorous Disposition, notwithstanding his Wife had serv'd him the scurvy Trick before-mention'd, instead of ravishing the Princess, which some Accounts have made mention of, pay'd the Respect that was due to her high Birth, took her and her Attendance into his own Ship, and after despoiling the Vessel of all its Wealth, suffer'd it and its Crew to steer on to their intended Port. It seems the Riches of the Ship was design'd as a Portion for the Princess, and was sent as a Present to a *Persian* Potentate, who never had the Fortune to enjoy the glittering Cargo, nor his intended Spouse; for the Captain had plunder'd her of something more pleasing than the Jewels, tho' not without her Consent, and being join'd in Marriage, after the Custom of those Foreigners, for she had a Priest with her, who did that Office after her Country's Manner; and Avery was e'en contented to dismiss the Scruples of his being marry'd after the Church of *England* Method, out of Complaisance to so desirable a Creature. The rest of the Ship's Crew drew Lots for her Servants, and to follow the Example of their Commander, even stay'd their Stomachs 'till the same Priest had said Grace for them, that did it for their Master, when they fell to as heartily, as if they were to feast after that Rate no more during their Lives; and being full of Wealth, when they were almost empty of Love, came in Sight of the Island of *Madagascar*.

This Exploit of theirs having reach'd the Mogul's Ears in a short Time after, he immediately caus'd 300000 Men to advance towards the *English* Settlements, by Way of Reprisals; but the *India-Company* being appriz'd of his Resentments, stop'd his Anger with Presents, 'till they could give Notice to their Correspondents in *England*, who bought Dr. D ——— a fine Gown to appear in as their Ambassador at the Mogul's Court; but the Doctor was either too fearful to venture his Carcass where it might not be safe, or too intent on a Place which he had in View at Home, to go so far to seek for it Abroad, tho' Sir *William Norris* bravely accepted the Employment, and went thro' it with a Courage peculiar to his heroick Family. The Mogul, at his Arrival into his Territories, not only defray'd his Charges, but sent him Home with rich Presents, tho' he had the Misfortune to die in his Return thither, and not bring 'em Home to his Family.

ly in Person; which shews, that a covetous Prince minds Money more than Consanguinity, and makes the Maxim good, *That Princes have no Relations, while either the Extent of their Territories are concern'd, or the Augmentation of their Treasures.*

To return to *Madagascar*, where we left our triumphant Heroe and Lover, with the rest of his Adventurers. They were no sooner in Sight of the Island, but whole Troops of Inhabitants came down to the Shore, in order to take a Survey of the Ship, and the People he brought with him. The Captain was somewhat startl'd at so numerous an Appearance, but being told of the Fertility of the Island by some of the Buccaneers, and the Disposition of its Inhabitants, sent some of 'em with a Flag of Truce, and Presents for their chief Commanders, who no sooner receiv'd them, but with Expressions of Joy after their Way, conducted 'em to their King. Their Prince's Residence was about three Miles off from the Shore, which was surrounded, after the Manner of the *Eastern* People, and made up of great Numbers of Huts. Here they found drawn up in a Semi-circle about 1000 arm'd Men, and in the Midst of 'em sat down on a Carpet cross-legg'd three Persons, who seem'd superior to the rest by their Habit and Looks. The Middlemost was the chief, and the other two that sat at a convenient Distance on each Side of him, his Brother, and prime Minister of State. The *Europeans* were no sooner come in Sight, but the little Army made a disinal Cry, and brandish'd their Spears in the Air, in a seemingly threatening Posture; which they understood afterwards by Means of an Interpreter, was design'd as a Welcome to Court. In an Instant, all was Attention and Silence, and 2 or 3 Officers of State stepped out of their Ranks to conduct the Pirates to Audience; who, having paid their Respects in their Country Manner, told him, *The Occasion of their coming into those Parts, was, for the Wealth and Advantage of the Country; that their Commander was a very powerful and great Man, and having receiv'd some Injuries from the Potentates of Europe, was in Search of a Place convenient, from whence he might molest 'em in the most sensible Part, which was, that of Trade; and that his Arrival in those Parts, would not only make him a Prince formidable to his Neighbours, but all the World would come into an Alliance with their Master, and desire to make Settlements in his Territories.* His Majesty, after having been told, by his chief Minister, the Purport of their Errand, gave them to understand, that an Alliance with so great a Commander, would be very welcome; and that he himself would, after due Preparations for his Reception, go in Person and attend him to Court; and having given Orders for their Entertainment, and shewn his great Satisfaction in the Present, which were but Trifles, rose up, and retir'd, as is usual with the Oriental Princes, to converse with their Wives.

In the mean Time, Capt. Avery, to lose no Time, set all Hands at work in sounding the Bay of the *East* Side of this Island, in 15 Degrees 30 Minutes *South* Latitude, which was large and capacious, and unexpos'd to the Fury of the most tempestuous Weather. Towards the Bottom of it lies a small Island about ten Miles in Circumference, whose Land round it being high and woody, makes it a sure Protection for all Vessels which anchor'd beneath; and here he chose to continue 'till the Return of his Messengers, who made him the Report above-mention'd. The King of the Country was as good as his Word in a Day or two after, and came very nobly attended to invite the Captain ashore, who receiv'd him under a Discharge of all his Artillery, and with all the Respect due to a Person of the highest Character; and having entertain'd him and his Retinue with all Things the Ship afforded, which was of an astonishing Bulk to the Infidels, very frankly accepted of his Invitation, and went ashore, where he found a Treatment that was uncommon with Barbarians, and made him assur'd, that he was not the only *European* that had touch'd upon those Parts. Here

Here the two Potentates (for we must after this Interview, share the Government of this Side of the World between them) enter'd into a perpetual Alliance; and having regal'd themselves after an extraordinary Manner, stipulated to stand by each other with all their Forces. When the Captain return'd to his Ship, in order to take Possession of the Place which was intended for his Abode, and was the Island we just now told the Reader of, and on which, after mooring his Vessel, he landed with all his Crew, but such as were absolutely necessary to look after her. In the first Place, what he had to do, was to cause all the Plunder he had got, to be brought ashore, and take Care, that an exact Dividend should be made of the whole, according to the Law of Pirates, who, tho' they make it their Business to prey on Persons of a different Life and Conversation, yet among themselves observe the strictest Rules of Justice. He had no sooner dispos'd of his Affairs to the general Satisfaction, cur'd his sick Men, and careen'd his Vessel, but he embark'd again, having left Part of his Crew with the Women on Shore, to look after fresh Booty, and set Sail for the neighbouring Isles, which lay contiguous, and interspers'd in those Seas not far from one another, some of which were of dangerous Access, others afforded convenient Harbours, but all of 'em in general were found to abound with most Necessaries of Life, as what were wanting seem'd rather design'd to oblige the Luxurious, than to answer the Demands of a reasonable Appetite. During this Cruize, in which he took two *Moorish* Vessels, and an *English East India Ship*, outward-bound, and very richly laden, he had Time to consider of his past Life and Conduct, and consult with himself for his future Safety. He debated what Course was most proper for him to take; to return into *England* was dangerous, all the World were his Enemies, and if he escap'd the Danger of the Seas on such a Voyage, he had Reason to believe he should perish at Land. These Reasons induc'd him to be fix'd in his Resolves, to chuse the Place he had left the Women and Plunder in, for a Retreat, since none could be more proper than those very Isles about which he was then cruizing, their Situation for Trade lying as it were between the *East* and *West Indian* Seas. Their Neighbourhood to several Spice Islands, the Civility of their Inhabitants, their Distance from *Europe*, and the Plenty of Provisions that were found therein, powerfully induc'd him to settle here a Colony, which seem'd to be secure enough from all the Attempts that the Universe could make against it. Resolv'd upon this *Medium*, to avoid future Dangers, after having taken another Prize, which was full of *French-men*, design'd for the same Exploits he was then in Exercise of, he communicated his Thoughts not only to his Ship's Crew, but such of his Prisoners as were *English* or *French*; and at the same Time assur'd them, that such who dislik'd his Proposal, were at Liberty to retire aboard one of the Ships which he would furnish them with. The Captain's Generosity was so very much applauded, that very few, either *English* or *French*, except the Commanders of the *East India Ship*, and Part of his Crew, made the last Offer their Choice. The *French*, for their Parts, being sensible that they were one and all in his Power, thought it rather Prudence to share his Fortune, than for him to make himself Master of theirs, and more than supply'd the Room of those Sailors that were for returning into their own Countries, though most of the *English* tarry'd with their Commander, and landed with all Materials necessary to build a Fort with, for their mutual Defence. This they effected in a little Time, and having plac'd several great Guns upon it, and forty eight Pieces of Cannon they had taken out of the *East India Ship*, for the Security of their Persons and Effects, and call'd it by the Name of *Fort Avery*, in Honour of their Leader, but as Bulwarks and Artillery were not able to preserve this piratical Government, without Laws and In-

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stitutions necessary for its Well-being and Continuance, several new Customs and Ordinances were propos'd, and consented to by the Generality of the Rovers, conducive as they imagin'd necessary for the Preservation of their new State; and *Avery* was with abundance of Ceremony chosen and confirm'd in the Dignity of being their Chief, with such a Power as the Doges or Dukes of *Venice* and *Genoa* are now possess'd of.

After this Republick of Pirates had thus order'd all Things to their Satisfaction, those who had Leave to retire, were shipp'd for the *Western* Islands in one of the *Moorish* Vessels, and part of *Avery's* new Subjects remain'd upon the Island, while the other weigh'd Anchor from thence, in Search of new Adventures, under the Command of *Monf. de Sale*, who was next in Power to the new Duke, who, for his part, with his other Companions, who had Women for their Shares, gave himself up to the Caresses of his new Princesses. As Time obliterates the most deep Impressions of Sorrow, so the Lady was not long before she forgot the Pleasures of her Grand-father's Court, in the Joys of her own, and found herself happily brought to Bed of a Son soon after her Husband's being invested with his new Dignity, while the Female Part of her Retinue were no less backward in presenting their Husbands with the Fruits of their conjugal Endearments. But tho' the Commander in chief, with a small Number of his Followers, had these Advantages, the rest of 'em were Strangers to Venereal Enjoyments, and being Masters of the same Passions, were under a Restraint of being Strangers to the same Priviledges; wherefore it was resolv'd, *nemine contradicente*, that a Supply should be granted for the Good of their new-modell'd Government, and the first Voyage should be made in Quest of Women, to perpetuate it by way of Generation, lest the Want of Assistants from that Sex, should, in Process of Time, render it extinct by a Failure of Succession. Nor was *Fortune* averse to their Desires, the Ship soon return'd with a Cargo of Ladies. 'Tis true, their Complexion was none of the fairest, but *Necessity* takes up with every Thing; and when they were weary of these, 'twas in their Power to have more at the same Price, it being the Custom of the Islands, and of that part of the Continent of *Africa* which lay near, to barter for Wives as they do for Cattel, and you might as easily purchase a young Virgin of her Parents, as a Tooth of Ivory, both being the Commodities and Merchandize of those Countries, only here lay the Difference, the Lady was of less Value than the Tooth.

Thus *Capt. Avery* and his Adherents, meeting with all they could in Reason desire in that part of the World where they liv'd, resolv'd to make their constant Residence, and by Force or Perswasion, oblig'd several *Europeans* to partake in the Fortunes of their new-structur'd Commonwealth; and in a little Time *Fame* so assisted their Intentions, that several Pirates of all Nations came to settle themselves under his Protection, and he saw himself in Possession of a Government larger than he could have imagin'd in the Infancy of his Adventures. By this Accession of Strength, he not only enlarg'd his Territories, but made all the neighbouring Princes his Tributaries. Towns were built, Communities establish'd, Fortifications built, and Entrenchments flung up, as render'd his Dominions impregnable and inaccessible by Sea and Land; and tho' *Commodore Warren* came into those Parts with a Squadron of Men of War, to drive 'em from thence, he had the Mortification to see such Efforts not only hazardous, but impracticable, and to return Home without any other Effect, than dispersing a Pardon, which was embrac'd by few of the Captain's Adherents, because their Commander in Chief was excepted.

But as in all Constitutions and Bodies Politick, there are still some Members that compose it, of different Inclinations, and who, sway'd by Ambition, or by-
als'd

as'd by Disaffection, think themselves capable of commanding the whole, and highly injur'd while they are made subservient to a Power that is superior to 'em; so it was with *de Sale*, who, not being content to be second, lost his Life, with his Expectations, while he was attempting to be first. This Man was a brave and daring Officer, but not being content that *Avery* had not only spar'd his Life, when he first made him his Prisoner, but also advanc'd him to be his Vice-roy, as it were, and the next in Command under him, he resolv'd to return those Acts of Mercy and Compassion, with the highest Injustice and Cruelty. The Lady that fell to his Share for a Help-mate, was neither beautiful, like Capt. *Avery's*, nor of high Extraction, and he could not cast an Eye on the one, without having the utmost Aversion for the other. He made use of all the little Artifices he could, to make the other's Lady acquainted with his Passion; but either she had too much Generosity for her Husband's Friend and Deputy, or too little Knowledge in the Art and Mysteries of Love, to be sensible of his Designs, without a more formal Declaration: Whether it was Ignorance or Address in her, it is nothing to our Purpose; the more innocent she appear'd to the *French-Man*, she seem'd still Mistress of the more Charms; and he took Resolutions to enjoy her, that were as fatal as his Love was criminal. The Captain's Absence from the Place of his usual Abode, on the Affairs of his Government, gave the Villain an Opportunity of being more sedulous in his Addresses, and he laid hold of it with an Eagerness that shew'd how impatient he was of any Delay, as he took Time by the Forelock in the following Manner. As the Violence of his Passion had made him resolute and intrepid, so the Despair of succeeding in his Amours by fair Means, made him wholly intent how to accomplish his Desires by foul, whatsoever should be the Consequence: But first he thought it a Piece of Discretion, to feel the Pulse of his Country-men the *French*, to whom he address'd himself by way of Complaint, relating to the Tyranny of the English, who would Lord it over 'em in a strange manner, unless Methods were speedily apply'd, to prevent their exorbitant Increase of Power. He told them, that it was but too visible to those who would make any Enquiry into his past and present Conduct, that *Avery* aim'd at a despotical and arbitrary Government; that such Designs were destructive of the very Being of their Settlement; that it behov'd every well-meaning Person, especially those of the French Nation, who had been so long us'd to Conquests, to shake off a Yoke that would never be got rid of, without their immediate taking Advantage of the Captain's Absence; that it was their Turn to relieve the Guard, and do Duty at the Castle that Day, and they at this very Juncture not only had it in their Power to deliver themselves from approaching Slavery, but making Terms with their Prince, whom they had highly offended by transgressing the Law of Nations, in taking such unlawful Courses as they were forc'd to under their present Circumstances; that all the Riches of *Avery*, which were inconceivably great, were lodg'd in the Castle they were going to be possess'd of, and that besides those Riches, they might have immense Treasures from the Mogul, in rescuing his Grand-daughter, the Princess, from her unjust Confinement, and delivering her into his Hands, which might be done by a due Capitulation. To conclude, he conjur'd 'em, by the Honour of their Country, and the Respect they bore to him, their Commander, who had journey'd so many thousand Leagues with 'em, to shew themselves like Men, in order to be possess'd of so glorious a Reward; and for his Part, he would not only lead 'em on, but would be the last that should see 'em on Board their own Vessel again, in their Return Home, after the Prosecution of so noble and equitable a Design. The Prospect of Gain, the Hopes of having their Pardons, and the Return to their native Soil, were Arguments too perswasive not to make Impressions upon the Minds of Men, who, being accusom'd to the Acts of Barbarity, made no Scruple of falling into Mea-

tures that were consonant to it ; wherefore they jointly, one and all, agreed to live and die with their Commander, and as soon as the Watch-Bell should sound, after their being possess'd of the Castle, to fall to, and plunder all they should find in their Way, and neither spare Man, Woman, or Child, but the Princess and her Family. But here, as before at *Jamaica*, Capt. *Avery's* good Genius was superior to his evil, and stood by him once more, in Opposition to his Enemies, tho' perhaps to reserve him for greater Misfortunes, if he persists in the Course of Life he yet continues to take. One *Pickard*, of *de Sale's* Crew, had been very much abus'd by him, bastinado'd, and under an Arrest frequently when on Board with him, besides incapable of returning to *France* again for other Crimes, as Murder and Incest, should that of Piracy be forgiven him ; wherefore, after having long sought for an Opportunity of Revenge, he could not but hug himself at the Thoughts of this, as an infallible Means to dispatch his Enemy. What does he therefore do, but makes off to the Captain of the Guard, one *Richardson*, a *Cornish*-man, and formerly *Avery's* Lieutenant, and acquaints him with the intended Conspiracy, giving him to understand, that unless he took speedy Measure to prevent it, two Hours Time would bring about such a Turn of Affairs as would be the unavoidable Ruin of their whole Colony. *Richardson*, for his Part, was a prudent Man, and wisely entertain'd a true Sense of the Danger which his Master's Affairs were going to be involv'd in ; wherefore, the first Thing he did, was, to dispatch a Messenger to Capt. *Avery*, with an Account of the Premises, and to desire his speedy Return, promising not only to secure his pernicious Deputy, but not to admit any Forces to relieve the Guard in the Castle. All this was punctually perform'd ; for *de Sale* coming, as his usual Custom was, to pay his Respects to the Princess about an Hour before the Guard was to be reliev'd, was immediately put under an Arrest, to his great Confusion. But as it was not enough to make a Seizure of his Person, without those of his Accomplices, so he was to look out for Measures suitable to this End, which was happily accomplish'd by his calling in a whole Ship's Crew of *English*, who were just come into Port with fresh Booty. These he dispos'd in such a Manner with those he had before in Garrison, so as when the Relief should come upon the Parade, to surround 'em on every Side, and either make 'em Prisoners, or cut 'em entirely off ; but as Villains, never so desperate in their horrid Contrivances, have a cowardly Disposition of Soul when they come to Action, so these, when they saw themselves encompass'd, and commanded to lay down their Arms, or expect no Quarter, made Choice to submit to the Laws of Necessity, and were hurry'd to Prison without any manner of Resistance, where they are to stay 'till the Captain's and his Council's Arrival, who were to pass Sentence upon 'em answerable to their Demerits.

This was no sooner done, but the News of it spread over the whole Island, and not a *French*-man could be seen in it, but was in Danger of his Life from the Indignation those of other Nations had conceiv'd against 'em ; and had it not been for an Order that was issu'd out upon *Avery's* Arrival, to prevent such inconsiderate and cruel Proceedings, they had found themselves wholly extinct by a general Massacre. But Forms of Justice were to be made Use of even among those People, whose Way of Living shew'd 'em conversant with nothing but Injustice ; and *de Sale* and his Accomplices were brought upon their Tryals, where, being found guilty, they were every Man condemn'd to be empal'd alive, and their Estates confiscated for the Use of the Government : Which severe Execution was accordingly put in Practice, without any Remorse on the Side of the unhappy Persons, that while they were made the Objects of other Folks Terror, shew'd no other Concern under their Sufferings, than for their Villanies not being prosperous.

prosperous. As Plots are for the Use and Confirmation of Governments, when unsuccessful, so was this highly to the Advantage of the Captain and his new Dignity; for not only vast Riches fell to him by the Forfeiture of these Conspirators, but the great Council of the Island agreed, one and all, to pass such wholesome Acts in his Favour, as rais'd him to a Pitch of Sovereignty not any ways inferior to the greatest Potentates.

'Twas not only made high Treason to contrive against his Person, but to speak little of his Authority; and he saw himself invested with a Power as despotick as one of the most arbitrary Principles could wish for, or the highest Ambition could have in View. But as, amidst all the Prosperities of Life, Reflexions on the short Duration of it, will sometimes intervene, and the Inclinations of Mankind are not so sunk in Vice, as to admit no Thoughts that border upon Virtue, so the Captain could not but lean after a Prospect of his own native Country, and the Desire of finishing the Remainder of his Days where he first had the Happiness of seeing the Light, which was increas'd by looking into his past Crimes, and a just Survey of what he must one Day answer for at a Heavenly Tribunal, tho' he found himself out of the Reach of one that was Earthly. These Considerations, which he found himself more and more subject to, induc'd him to make Application to the *English* Company trading to the *East Indies*, for Pardon; and having an Opportunity by one of their Ships, which was then brought in, and which he order'd to be immediately releas'd with great Civilities, he wrote the following Letter to Capt. Pitts, the Governor of *Fort St. George*.

S I R,

THE Bearer can testify my Respects to the Company, by bringing you this; and whatever my Demerit has been to other Nations, you may always rest assur'd of my particular Deference to my own. Nothing lies more at Heart on my side, than that I have given Occasion for her Majesty's Subjects formerly to complain of me; but as I have it in my Power to make ample Amends, so I am now ready to do it after what manner shall be thought convenient, provided I may be suffer'd to return Home to my own Country in Safety, with such Effects as shall be thought needful. The Necessities of the War, in all Probability, may make a Proposal of some Millions of Money, not altogether unacceptable: And tho' I am capable of maintaining my self where I am, against whatsoever Power can be brought against me, yet my Disrelish of Things that are unjust, and my Inclination to do my own Country Service, as well as close my Eyes in it, are so prevalent with me, as to make me desire your good Offices in this Affair, and tell you, that I am, with all imaginable Respect, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant, John Avery.

This Letter, according to Request, was transmitted into *England*, but whether the *East India* Company thought it not adviseable to be presented to the Government, or the Ministry took no Notice of it, as an Affair too dispicable, and direct coming to Terms with a Pirate and Rebel, as well as Violator of the Laws of Nations, it is not in my Power to determine; for he had no manner of Anto it, and was left to take such Measures as he should think most conducive to his present Circumstances, which were such as not to render him contemptible. But to return to *Madagascar*, without making Enquiry into our Transactions at Home. This remarkable Deliverance of the Captain from the Machinations of his Enemies, not only gave Being to a Law, That all *French*-men whatsoever should depart that Island, but occasion'd Resolutions in *Avery* and his Council, to pursue 'em to Death, wheresoever they should find 'em. And accordingly a Fleet was equipp'd to obstruct their Commerce, and destroy their Settlements in the North Part of that Island; which was effected with that Vigor and Celerity, that all the Resistance could be made by the Enemy, could not with-

withstand 'em; and they return'd from *Port St. Mary* (for that was the chief Place the *French East-India Company* had been in Possession of ever since the Year 1664) with upwards of two Millions in Plate, Jewels, and other valuable Commodities; a fourth Part of which fell to the Captain's Share, according to the Constitution of his Government.

Thus he grew in Wealth, as he grew in Years, and scarce a Week pass'd without some new adventitious Booty; so that if Money could purchase his Pardon and safe Return, he had wherewithal to reduce *France*, notwithstanding their coining their Plate, without any farther Taxes upon the Subject; and he had nothing short of the Regal Authority, but a Right to exercise it: For the Fame of his Adventures had brought all manner of People to live under his Government; and he not only coin'd Money with his own Impress upon it, but took upon him the Stile, in his Edicts and Declarations, that is to be made use of by Sovereign Princes. And he not only beat the *French* out of their Dominions in that Island, but, to gratify his Ambition by not having any Thing like a Competitor, wag'd War with the King of the Country, that so handsomely receiv'd him at his first coming to it, and having reduc'd him, makes him now live under the Denomination of a Subject.

But as has been said before, all Governments are insecure, that are founded upon Violence and Rapine, and tho' he had been preserv'd from the Attempts of his pretended Friends, he had all imaginable Reason to make use of Means to defend himself from his open and avow'd Enemies; nor was he such a Stranger to the Affairs of *Europe*, how remote soever he was from the Confines of it, not to foresee that Attempts would be made to dislodge him from thence on every side, at the Conclusion of a general Peace: He therefore set himself at work to regulate, arm, and discipline his Militia, and having form'd them into several Regiments, found them to make fifteen thousand effective Men. His Preparations at Sea were nothing behind those at Land, and he saw himself Master of more than forty Vessels of War, from seventy to thirty six Guns, that could be laid up on Occasion in a Baion that was defended by a Mole and a hundred Pieces of Cannon. The Forts were likewise kept in Repair, and such additional Works added to 'em, as might defeat all the Measures should be taken against him, and every Thing was put into such a Posture, as not only enabled him to repel Force by Force, but defy'd the Approach of an Enemy within Reach of 'em. To go farther than this, would be to impose upon the Veracity of the Relators, as well as the Belief of the Reader, because the Person that gives these Memoirs, left the Captain when he first made Overtures for Pardon; wherefore we shall release him from any farther Enquiries, by a faithful and true Account of the Country which he is now possess'd of, and which he may take as follows.

M *Adagascar*, or *St. Lawrence's Island*, so called because discover'd on that Day; and, according to some, from *Lawrence*, a *Portuguese*, who discover'd it in 1506. The *French*, in the Reign of *Henry the IVth*, call'd it the *Dauphine's Island*. It is suppos'd to be the *Menuthias* of *Ptolomy*, and the *Cerne-Aethiopia* of *Pliny*. It lies in the *Aethiopian Sea*, and points Westward towards *Zanguebar* and the *Cafres*, on the Coast of *Africa*. 'Tis about 50 Leagues in Length, and 80 or 100 in Breadth. It is under the *Torrid Zone*, and the *Tropicke* of *Capricorn*. It hath abundance of Capes, and most of them cover'd with Citron and Orange, or Ebony-Trees, and others, whose Wood is speckl'd. The Rocks are of excellent white Marble, whence flows the best and purest Water in the World. The Country is divided into many Provinces; but those towards the North, are unknown to the *Europeans*. Their Villages are compos'd of moveable Houses, such as four Men can carry. Their Towns are encompass'd with Pales, and a deep Ditch six or seven Foot wide, and their Houses built of Planks. The Air is extream hot, and they have never any Snow nor Ice.

Here are several Mines of Iron and fine Steel. They have some Mines of Gold, but it is very pale. Most Sorts of precious Stones are to be found in their Rivers; and they have Store of excellent Honey, sweeter and harder than ours, resembling Sugar. They make Wine or Mead of Honey, which is the most common; Wine of Sugar, and a Sort of Cyder. They extract Oil from several Plants, Fruits, Nuts, and Grains, and have a Sort of Harth, as good as the *Terra Sigillata* of *Lemnos*.

Here grows abundance of white Pepper, and precious odoriferous Wood of divers Colours. They have also Store of Canes of a vast Height and Thickness, tall and round, of which they make Pots, Bottles, Violins, and Harps, Boats that will hold two Persons, and Sedans, and take Care to give them a certain Bent, when young, to render 'em fit for their Purpose. These Canes, which they call *Bamboches*, have a Pith within, much esteem'd by the *Indians*, *Arabians*, & *Persians*, & call'd the Sugar of the *Bamba's*, or *Bamboches*.

They have a very good Tobacco, and also a Sort of Hemp, whose Leaves they use instead of it, which being chew'd, makes them fall asleep, and afterwards renders them extraordinary chearful; but such as are not accusom'd to it, it makes mad for three or

Four Days. The Inhabitants are often incommoden with Locusts, which destroy all the Corn and Fruits; but the Natives gather up the Locusts, and feed upon them. Here is no great Plenty of noisome Animals, except Crocodiles, and great Serpents without Poision.

The Natives are of two Sorts, black and white; the latter, by their Names and Customs seem to be of Jewish Extract. All of 'em go naked, but cover their *Pudenda*. Women of Quality have some slight Habit extraordinary. The Men buy their Wives, and keep as many as they can maintain. The Men are courageous, and despise Death; and their Arms are Javelins, Bows and Arrows. The Women are very discreet, and extremely virtuous. Their Language and Writing resembles the *Arabick*. Their Paper is yellow, very smooth, and fine, being made of the inner Rind of a certain Tree, call'd *Avo*. Their Ink is a sort of Gum made of a Tree call'd *Aradrant*, and their Pens made of Cane. They believe in one God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, who rewards the Good, and punishes the Bad: They call him *Zanharre*, and sacrifice to him, but without Temples. They own also, that there are good and evil Angels, and are mightily afraid of the Devil; and in all their Sacrifices, they throw the Devil the first Bit, to pacify him. Their Priests are usually Magicians, and give 'em Spells and Charms to prevent Mischief from the Devil. They live in Hords, like the *Tartars*, under one Chief, whom they call *Tschich*: Which Authority is many times usurp'd by him who is most powerful. The latest Relation from this Island, informs us, that the Princes are govern'd by petty Princes or Grandees, and the People are divided into several Ranks; tho' all these Princes, since the Reduction of the Island by Capt. *Mory*, are under his Obedience. When the Grandees visit one another, he who receives the Visit, prostitutes his handsomest Wife to the other: And the common People entertain their Friends and Strangers in the same Manner. Their Grandees are much delighted with Comedies. Their Comedians, whom they call *Seassee*, shave themselves close, and act in the Habit of Women, and play their Part in a laice divertingly enough.

The Air here is generally very temperate, and exceeding wholesome. The opposite Place on the Globe to *Madagascar*, is, the South Part of *California*. The Soil is extraordinary fruitful, in many places affording all Things necessary for the Life of Man, in great Plenty. The longest Day in the North Parts, is about 13 Hours and half, and the Shortest in the South 9 Hours and three quarters, and the Nights proportionably.

The chiefest Commodities of this Place, are, Rice, Hides, Wax, Gums, Christal, Silver, Copper, Ebony, and Wood of all sorts. Towards the Eastern Part of this Island, is a pleasant fertile Valley, call'd *Le Long*, which breedeth in several sorts of Iron and Steel, and yields great Store of the Oil of *Sejanum*. Near to the same Valley is an excellent Medicinal Well of hot Water, which proves a ready Cure for cold Distempers in the Limbs. In the same Neighbourhood, is an high Mountain, on whose Top is a remarkable Spring of very salt Water, tho' upwards of thirty Leagues from the Sea. In the Southern Parts are most sorts of Mineral Waters, very different both in Colour, Taste, and Quality, and some Places afford large Pits of *Bitumen*. In this Island is also a River, whose Gravel is so exceeding hot, that there's no treading upon it, and yet the Water of that River is extream cold.

Divers singular Customs prevail in several Parts of this Island, particularly these two; first, if any Woman be deliver'd of a live Child, and afterwards die in Child bed, the living Child is bury'd with the dead Mother, being better (say they) that the Child should die, than live, having no Mother to look after it. The other is, their expelling their Children to wild Beasts, if brought forth upon an unlucky Day, (as they term it) or during some unfortunate Aspects of the Planets, as their Priests pretend to tell them; and to numerous are those Days they term *unlucky*, that almost one half of the Year is accounted such; which is the Reason the Island is so thinly stock'd with Inhabitants.

The Language here us'd, is barbarous; almost every Province has its peculiar Dialect yet not so different, but that they understand one another; so that the Natives of this Island may be said to have but one Tongue in common among 'em all.

From the foregoing Description, may be concluded what a mighty Advantage it would be to the Crown of Great Britain, if Means could be found out by our Superiors, either to suppress these Pyrates by Force, and so get Possession of this wealthy Island, or by Compliance with such Advances as have been made by their Chief towards his Pardon, which must terminate in an entire Surrendry of a Country that not only abounds with many useful Commodities, but, by its Extent and Strength, will add to the Renown of the British Arms, which, from such an Accomodation, must shine with as great a Lustre as they have lately done in Europe.

F I N I S.